

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
GILA RIVER PROJECT
RIVERS, ARIZONA
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS SECTION

May 12 to July 7, 1945

FINAL REPORT

By

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PREFACE TO FINAL REPORT

This report is one of a series. It occupies a special place in that it is the final report of the series, but some of its limitations will be better understood if it is realized that thirty-eight reports preceded it. A complete list of titles of formal reports is appended to this preface.

It should also be noted that the series of reports written from this Center is only a part of a larger system of reports. Each of the ten Centers operated by the War Relocation Authority had a Community Analyst for at least a part of its existence; some of them had Analysts continuously from March, 1943 to the time of their closing; and one of them, Poston, had Analysts from the beginning of its history to the end.

In addition to the Center Analysts, there was a central staff in the Washington office of the W.R.A., headed by the Chief Community Analyst. This staff issued reports based upon the reports of Analysts in the Centers, and the final report to be issued by that office will be the final estimate of the part played by community analysis in the total administration of the W.R.A. A report such as the one here published may be of interest as an example of the raw material upon which the periodic reports and the final report of Washington is based.

However, reports from a single center have a validity of their own. Each center developed characteristics and problems of its own, and these are worth description as examples of cultural diversity arising within a narrow compass of circumstance, and of social development occurring within a short space of time. The series from each center also has a practical validity because the reports were aimed at the center administration as well as

the Washington administration and should be evaluated accordingly.

Further, each report has a temporal validity. While some were attempts to sketch social background, others dealt with issues of significance at the moment, with a view to immediate application of the information imparted. The temporal significance of this report is partly that it was the final report, and partly that it was written at a critical period in the history of the center, when the outcome of the policy of closing the centers was still problematical. No attempt has been made to alter it in terms of after events or afterthoughts; it remains the conspectus of the analyst during the last weeks of his stay at the center, even though the writing of it was not completed until some weeks after his departure.

The analyst arrived at Gila on June 30, 1943. The center was then ten months old. That initial ten months was a period of intense social activity; the assemblage of people became a community with community traditions, attitudes and values, and with a social organization of great complexity. When the analyst left, toward the end of May, 1945, the center had five and one-half months more of existence ahead of it, a period of social disintegration during which the tempo of social change was again intensified. The period of his stay was thus the period of maximum social stability. As the report indicates, this stability was only relative; intensity of reaction to events and swiftness of social change were characteristic of the center throughout its life.

The report was written for people familiar with many facts of evacuation and of organization of

which the general reader may be ignorant. The definition or explanation of a few terms may be of some assistance.

The term *Issei* means "first generation" and denotes the Japanese-born who migrated to America. Most of them were educated in Japan and came to this country as youths or young adults. They are ineligible for American citizenship. Thus education and nationality create and foster an attachment to Japanese culture, modified by many years of residence in the United States, and by the loyalties and interests of their American-born children.

Nisei means "second generation" and refers to the children of the *Issei*. They are members of the first generation born in this country. By extension, it is taken to mean anyone of Japanese ancestry born in this country. The *Nisei* are American citizens and the majority are culturally Americans.

The *Kibei* are *Nisei* who went to Japan for all or part of their education and then returned to this country. They have varying degrees of attachment to Japan, according to the length of their stay in Japan, and according to the time elapsed since their return. The extremists are more pro-Japanese than their conservative *Issei* parents; on the other hand, some are as pro-American as the American-educated *Nisei*.

The J. A. C. L. is the Japanese-American Citizens' League. It took the lead in the early days of evacuation. It was distrusted by the *Issei* and lost its influence in the center as the *Issei* assumed control, and as the leading *Nisei* left the center.

The W. C. C. A. was a temporary Government agency which administered the evacuees for a short period before the W. R. A. took over.

The term *segregation* refers specifically to the removal of the disloyal to one selected center, Tule Lake, in California. The number so segregated from Gila was 1915; this included the chil-

dren of Japanese nationals who had applied for repatriation.

The term *relocation* became a key word in W. R. A. terminology. It referred originally to the removal of the evacuees from the forbidden areas to relocation centers. From early in 1943 onward it denoted the voluntary resettlement of the evacuees in other parts of the country. The W. R. A. put forth great efforts to induce and to assist this process.

Reference is frequently made to the administrative organization of the center. A brief outline may assist understanding. At the head of the center was the Project Director, who exercised great authority within Washington instructions. Under him were, first, three Assistant Project Directors. Each of these was the head of one of the principal administrative divisions. These were:

(1) The Community Management Division. This included the Health, Education, Internal Security (Police), Community Activities, Welfare, Community Enterprises (the Cooperative), Community Government and Community Analysis sections.

(2) The Administrative Management Division. This had sections on Personnel, Audit, Procurement, Supplies, Mess Operations and kindred matters.

(3) The Operations Division, which included Engineering, Public Works, Farm Management and other sections with similar materially practical functions.

In addition to the three principal divisions there were the Relocation Division, which became increasingly important as time went on; the Office of the Project Attorney; and the Reports Office.

Acknowledgements are due the many appointive officials and evacuee leaders whose courtesy and cooperation made these studies possible. The list is too long for individual mention. The debt to the evacuee Assistant Community Analysts has been acknowledged in the text.

LIST OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY THE COMMUNITY ANALYST GILA RIVER RELOCATION CENTER

1. August 19, 1943: Progress Report on Segregation.
2. October 20, 1943: Notes on the Problem of Relocation.
3. October 23, 1943: Brief Report on Private Enterprise.
4. October 25, 1943: Notes on Changes of Answers to Question 28 of the Army Questionnaire.
5. October 30, 1943: Evacuee Attitudes towards the W. R. A.
6. December 8, 1943: Report on Various Topics. (1) Segregation; (2) Leave Clearance Hearings; (3) Relocation; (4) Community Government; (5) Communication; (6) Hospital; (7) Food; (8) Notes on the Family; (9) Social Stratification; (10) A Conflict Situation; (11) Morale; (12) Community Analysis.
7. January 8, 1944: Evacuee Reactions to the Shooting Incident of December 1, 1943. (A brief

teletype report on this incident was sent to Washington on December 3, 1943.)

8. January 22, 1944: Evacuee Attitudes toward Tuberculosis.
9. April 1, 1944: Notes on Evacuee Attitudes. (1) The Problem; (2) Attitudes Resulting from Evacuation; (3) Issei Attitudes; (4) Administrative Considerations.
10. April 29, 1944: The Seinenkai (Young People's Association).
11. July 1, 1944: Some Observations on Relocation.
12. July 13, 1944: Notes on Japanese Language Schools in the Gila River Relocation Center.
13. July 14, 1944: One Year of Community Government at the Gila River Relocation Center. (1) Introductory; (2) The Constitution; (3) The First Term; (4) The Second Term; (5) The Present Councils; (6) The Judicial Commissions; (7) Appendix; Notes on Various Council and Block Managers' Meetings.
14. September 22, 1944: Future Possibilities of Relocation. (1) Introduction; (2) Relocation under Existing Conditions; (3) Relocation Assuming the Reopening of the West Coast; (4) Possible Reactions to the Announcement of the Closing of the Centers; (5) Results of the Acceleration of Relocation.
15. October 18, 1944: General Report. (1) The State of the Center; (2) The Assimilation of the People from Jerome; (3) Hospital; (4) Mess; (5) Induction into the Armed Forces; (5) Community Analysis Staff.
16. October 26, 1944: Youth Groups in the Gila River Relocation Center.
17. November 24, 1944: Trends Report, Oct. 18 to Nov. 23, 1944.
18. December 22, 1944: Trends Report, Nov. 23 to Dec. 20, 1944.
19. January 5, 1944: Block Councils.
20. January 9, 1945: Trends Report, Dec. 20, 1944 to Jan. 6, 1945.
21. January 16, 1945: Community Government from July 1, 1944 to December 31, 1944. (1) Introduction; (2) The Community Councils; (3) The Block Managers; (4) Conclusions. Appendix; Sample Minutes of the Meetings of the Community Councils and the Block Managers.
22. January 25, 1945: Trends Report, Jan. 6 to Jan. 24, 1945.
23. January 31, 1945: Population Pyramids and Charts Showing Age Difference in Marriages.
24. February 1, 1945: Trends Report, Jan. 24 to Jan. 31, 1945.
25. February 9, 1945: Population Pyramid from New Census of Dec. 31, 1944.
26. February 14, 1945: Trends Report, Feb. 1 to Feb. 13, 1945.
27. February 14, 1945: Block Population Pyramids.
28. February 22, 1945: Trends Report, Feb. 14 to Feb. 21, 1945.
29. February 26, 1945: Notes on a Conflict Situation in Cooperative Enterprises. (1) Chronology; (2) Motivations of the Canal Delegates; (3) Background of Distrust; (4) Community Factors; (5) Conclusions.
30. March 1, 1945: Trends Report, Feb. 22 to Feb. 28, 1945.
31. March 8, 1945: Trends Report, March 1 to March 7, 1945.
32. March 15, 1945: Trends Report, March 8 to March 14, 1945.
33. March 28, 1945: Reports on Relocated Issei.
34. March 29, 1945: Trends Report, March 15 to March 28, 1945.
35. April 5, 1945: Trends Report, March 29 to April 4, 1945.
36. April 12, 1945: Trends Report, April 5 to April 11, 1945.
37. April 26, 1945: Trends Report, April 12 to April 25, 1945.
38. May 7, 1944: Trends Report, April 26 to May 5, 1945.
39. Final Report, written partly at the Center and partly, during the month of June, in evenings and over week-ends, in Philadelphia. Completed in the early part of July, 1945, and published here.